

**September 24, 2010**

*Refinancing Loan Allows Renovations of Historic Stone Mill to Continue, Spurring Economic Development and Job Creation*

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that the Stone Mill of Little Falls, LLC in Herkimer County will receive a \$650,000 loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development's Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program, which will be administered by GPO Federal Credit Union in New Hartford, NY. These funds, made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill), are part of an ongoing commitment to ensure that rural communities attract capital investments that lead to business development and job creation.

"In these tough economic times, many businesses are unable to access the financing they need for renovations or to simply keep their operations running because many banks are either unwilling or unable to lend," **Arcuri said**, "Loans like this help rural communities renovate facilities and embark on new expansions-helping grow the local business sector and creating jobs."

The Stone Mill of Little Falls, LLC was formed in 2005 for the purpose of rehabilitating the Stone Mill of Little Falls, a historic 5-level mill built in 1839, into professional and business space and tourism accommodations. The building currently houses 13 businesses, including a boutique Inn, small theatre, antique shop and ice cream shop.

With the major renovations being done on the property and new income coming in from the inn, this \$650,000 USDA loan will allow The Stone Mill, LLC to convert its outstanding debt and construction costs into permanent financing. This refinancing will save 12 jobs and create an additional 6 jobs paying \$9.06/hour.

In 2006, the LLC was approached by Little Falls Urban Renewal to participate in the Small Cities Grant, as the Agency saw the potential for the inn. This participation positioned the Stone Mill for a 50/50 grant with the city, and grant funds received were a total of \$190,988. Unfortunately, the other half was to be financed by a local bank which pulled out of the project halfway through the construction. The LLC kept forging forward and drained the savings, and other resources, and successfully opened the inn in October 2009.

USDA Rural Development's Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program received \$1.57 billion to help rural businesses stimulate their economies and support their communities. Eligible applicants include private businesses, cooperative organizations, corporations, partnerships, non-profit groups, Federally-recognized Indian tribes, public bodies and individuals. The funds are targeted to create and retain quality jobs and serve difficult-to-reach populations and areas hardest hit by the current economic downturn.

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